

## Inner City Christian Federation, Cornerstone Architects, and the Rockford Construction Company, Inc., for the Rehabilitation of the D. A. Blodgett Home for Children, Grand Rapids

In 1887 the Blodgett and Clark families established the D. A. Blodgett Home for Children in what was known as the Clark Home. When that building was no longer suitable Delos A. Blodgett funded a new structure, a monumental Neo-classical building that was completed shortly after his death in 1908. When the home for children closed in 1948 the building was donated to the Mary Free Bed Guild for rehabilitative medicine and the treatment of polio survivors. Eventually a large connector and second wing were added to the façade of the original building, removing the portico. Mary Free Bed left the site in 1976, and 18 years later the building was slated for demolition.

The Inner City Christian Federation (ICCF), a nonprofit housing corporation, acquired the building in 2005. The ICCF hired Cornerstone Architects and Rockford Construction to rehabilitate the historic building. The exterior rehabilitation included the demolition of the 1950s wing and connector and the reconstruction of the original 1908 façade, including the grand Corinthian columns in the entrance portico – the most extensive reconstruction of terra cotta in Michigan. Replication of the original terra cotta elements that were missing was achieved through castings of glass fiber reinforced concrete. The intact historic interior spaces were restored along with the original terrazzo floor, cast iron stairwells, quarter-sawn white oak woodwork, and plaster cove ceilings.

The project, which resulted in \$14 million in total economic impact, allowed the building to resume fulfilling two important roles. The structure is once again a stunning landmark on the Grand Rapids skyline and it assists those who need it most.

